

quality patient care in individual hospitals and overall efficient administration within regions. On 1 October 1982, as part of that restructuring, the Naval Medical Command (NMC), Southwest Region, was established to assume essentially the regional administrative functions of the Naval Regional Medical Center, San Diego, which was disestablished. Concurrently, the hospital itself was retitled Naval Hospital, San Diego, and established as a separate command. As a result, the commanding officer of the hospital was able to focus exclusively on the provision of quality patient care, leaving regional administrative matters to NMC, Southwest Region. Previously both functions were performed by a single commanding officer. Therefore the reorganization should have the desired result—enhanced quality patient care.

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ROLAND A. BOWLING

SAN DIEGO, CALIF., NAVAL REGIONAL DENTAL CENTER, 1 JULY 1967—

Based on the Naval Station in a new building completed in 1977, NRDC consists of a headquarters and eleven dental facilities in San Diego and Branch Dental Clinics at the Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, Ariz. (q.v.), and the Naval Air Facility, El Centro, Calif. (q.v.). The center evolved as the result of a series of reorganizations. On 23 July 1965 the additional duty billet of District Dental Officer was changed to a primary duty billet of Director, Dental Activities, Eleventh Naval District, to be filled by a Dental Corps flag officer. Effective 1 July 1967 the Secretary of the Navy established the Naval Dental Center, Naval Base, San Diego, and on the following 22 September it was formally commissioned in Building 267 on the Naval Station. Concurrently, the former Naval Station Dental Department and Dental Technicians School were disestablished and their functions incorporated into the new center. The metamorphosis was completed on 1 January 1975, when the Secretary of the Navy changed the designation of the center to Naval Regional Dental Center, San Diego.

Physical facilities came abreast of organizational changes when the NRDC moved into a new headquarters complex on the Naval Station in June 1977; formal dedication ceremonies occurred the following November. This new, 135,000 square-foot, \$7.1 million complex containing 100 dental operating rooms actually consists of three interconnected buildings housing the headquarters, a Dental Clinic, an Area Dental Prosthetic Laboratory, a Dental Equipment Repair Facility, and the School of Dental Assisting and Technology. The latter, however, is not under the command of the center, but rather under the Health Sciences Education and Training Command in Washington through the Commanding Officer, Naval School of Health Sciences, at the Naval Regional Medical Center, Balboa, San Diego.

The Area Dental Prosthetic Laboratory is one of two such facilities in the country—the other being in Norfolk—and the larger of the two. For example, it produces an average of 500 dental prosthetic appliances a month for personnel on ships and stationed as far off as Diego Garcia.

Today the NRDC provides dental service to the Navy and Marine Corps personnel within its geographical area. This includes active duty personnel on shore stations and ships, and other beneficiaries, such as retirees of the U.S. Armed Forces.

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ROLAND A. BOWLING

San Diego, Calif., Naval Communications Station, 12 May 1906—

Navy Radio Point Loma was established on 12 May 1906 in a small frame building on the military reservation on Point Loma as part of the Navy's first radio communications network system. It handled in excess of 3,000 messages during its first year of operation and, during the period 1906 to 1908, participated in a number of projects that contributed significantly to radio broadcasting. Particularly noteworthy was the part it played in Dr. Lee DeForest's experiments in radio telephone communications from the USS *Connecticut*, then part of the Great White Fleet, which added a new dimension to the Navy's tactical flexibility.

On 21 July 1914, in order to increase the transmitting range of the facility, the Navy acquired 73.6 acres of land at Chollas Heights, about fifteen miles east of Point Loma, from Harry Flavel Carling. In 1916 the Navy completed a then modern high-power radio transmitting station on the new site, keyed remotely from Point Loma. The original 600 foot antenna towers are still in use. Further expansion of Navy Radio San Diego occurred in the 1920s, when the original Point Loma facility was converted to a receiver site only while the headquarters and message center functions were moved to their present location in the Naval Base Headquarters building in downtown San Diego.

During World War II Navy Radio San Diego played a vital role in wartime communications. Of particular historical note is the fact that it was by relay from the station's Chollas Heights transmitters that Washington first received word of the Pearl Harbor attack; Hawaii's main transmitters, capable of reaching Washington directly, went down temporarily during the attack.

The station continued to grow in size and capability when in 1941 the Navy acquired an additional 145 acres of land at Imperial Beach, adjacent to Fort Emory, an Army Coast Artillery Station some sixteen miles south of San Diego. In 1943 the Navy completed construction of a new receiver facility at the site and transferred that function from the original Point Loma site. Subsequently, the Navy fell heir to Fort Emory and adapted the facilities as office, maintenance,

and storage space for Navy Radio San Diego. In 1947 the Secretary of the Navy established Naval Communications Station, Eleventh Naval District, as a separate activity under a commanding officer. In 1953 it completed the transformation that exists today by establishing Naval Communication Station, San Diego, as a completely separate command.

Major technological improvements continued in the sixties and seventies. In 1965 a Wallenweber—"dinosaur cage"—antenna and associated equipment and buildings were installed at the receiver site at Imperial Beach. In 1966 the station became part of a world-wide Automatic Digital Network (AUTODIN) of computers capable of secure, virtually error-free (i.e., sailor proof) message transmission at extremely high speeds. In the mid-seventies, NAVCOMSTA, San Diego, installed its first Local Digital Message Exchange (LDMX), updated its computers, and replaced obsolete copiers. Toward the end of the decade it installed the Message Reproduction and Distribution System (MRDS), which completed the automated loop and produced a communications system that is capable of providing almost "hands-off" message service to subscribers in the area. In 1980 the Remote Information Exchange Terminal (RIXT), which provided the latest state of the art in optical scanning, video display control, automatic logging, and high speed transmission and reception became operational.

Today NAVCOMSTA, San Diego, is providing rapid, secure, and reliable communication service to the fleet, and the Navy intends to keep it that way by remaining abreast of developments in technology and making additional changes to meet the overall naval communications goal of reducing manpower-intensive operations and further improving service.

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ROLAND A. BOWLING

San Diego, Calif., Submarine Base, 23 October 1963—

Located on most of what was historical Fort Rosecrans at Ballast Point on Point Loma, the NAVSUBASE, SAN DIEGO, has become a major submarine support facility in the Pacific Fleet. It occupies some of the most historic grounds in California, if not the United States. It was in 1542 that Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo landed on Point Loma and discovered what is now San Diego Bay, which he first named San Miguel Bay. In 1799 the Spaniards completed Fort Guijarros on what is now Ballast Point. Both the Spanish and American names stemmed from the cobblestones that covered the point. Yankee trading vessels from Boston used these cobblestones for ballast in their return voyages around Cape Horn to the East Coast—thus the name "Ballast Point." Many of these stones were used along Boston's waterfront to pave streets, some of which are still in use.

As part of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, Upper California, which included Point Loma, became a part of the United States. On 26 February 1852

President Millard Fillmore signed an Executive Order that set aside the southern three miles of Point Loma as a military reservation. In 1897 the California legislature ceded to the federal government all lands that were being used for military purposes. The Ballast Point area fell within this category and has been under continuous military control ever since.

The Army established Fort Rosecrans in 1899 in the area presently occupied by the NAVSUBASE. However, by 1957 the need for coast defense artillery had become obsolete; therefore, the Department of the Army declared Fort Rosecrans excess property. On 2 July 1959 it was transferred to the Department of the Navy after nearly a century of Army control. The Navy in turn authorized the construction of two submarine berthing piers at the site. On 23 October 1963 the Secretary of the Navy directed establishment of the U.S. Navy Submarine Support Facility at Ballast Point under the military command of the Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and the management control of the Chief of Naval Operations. Finally, on 1 October 1981 the designation was changed to Naval Submarine Base, San Diego.

The NAVSUBASE, San Diego, provides base support for all submarines on the West Coast except strategic ballistic missile types, which are based in the Seattle area. Over 6,000 officers and men are actually stationed or homeported at the base, which provides direct support to over twenty submarines, more than half nuclear-powered; two submarine tenders; submarine rescue vessels, including deep submergence rescue vehicles (DSRV); the deep submergence bathyscaph *Trieste II* and other deep submergence vehicles; a small floating dry dock (ARD); and an array of sophisticated training simulators. A larger floating dry dock (ARDM-4) capable of accommodating vessels up to the size of the *Los Angeles*-class attack submarines (6900 tons) became operational in 1984.

It also supports several major staffs including that of the Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Representative, West Coast; Commander Submarine Squadron Three; Commander Submarine Squadron Five; and Commander Submarine Development Group One. The deep submergence rescue vehicles physically located as NAS North Island for rapid deployment by air are the specific responsibility of the latter command.

Today NAVSUBASE, San Diego, represents a major shift in submarine support in the area. In the not too distant past, submarines had no base facilities and nested alongside their tenders out in the stream; now a full-fledged base supports the latest in logistics, training, and personnel to meet the special requirements of the "Silent Service."

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ROLAND A. BOWLING

San Diego, Calif., Miramar Naval Air Station, 1 July 1946—

Located between coastal mountains and desert to the east, the Pacific Ocean to the west, and thirteen miles north of San Diego, NAS Miramar is home for